

caused food supplies to increase so that feeding of the young was not the burden that it would otherwise have been. This apparent increase in food supply seemed to more than compensate the effect of any increased physiological strain, so that weights were higher when young were being fed than in the pre-laying period. The low Luangwa weights are to be expected, then, as the birds were carrying the full burden of feeding the young on possibly meagre food supplies.

It is likely that any weight loss in adults associated with the feeding of young will continue until the young are fledged, as naturally the bigger the young in the nest, the more food they will consume. Such an argument might explain the apparent weight loss during the latter part of the breeding season. But there is the complication of the growth pattern of the young of hole-nesting birds, which reach their maximum pre-fledging weight (larger than their fledging weight) some days before leaving the nest: see, for example, Skutch (1967) while Dr. C. H. Fry (in prep.) has considerable evidence of such a pattern in *Merops bulcocki* in Nigeria.

Eighty wing lengths for Luangwa birds have a mean of 153 mm. compared with 151 mm. for Beatrice birds (table 2 in Britton, 1967). The considerable difference in average weight between Luangwa birds and Beatrice birds, as discussed above, is unlikely to be the result of geographical size variation within the species, as the two localities are only 360 miles apart. Some of this difference could, however, be explained by Bergmann's Rule, as the altitude of Beatrice is 4,400 feet compared with 1,800 feet for Mfuwe. But as the minor difference suggested by the average wing measurements contradicts Bergmann's Rule, the weight difference discussed is probably physiological in origin.

SUMMARY

105 Luangwa breeding Carmine Bee-Eaters *Merops nubicus nubicoides* were very light in weight and it is suggested that this is because young were being fed in the dry season on possibly meagre food supplies. There is evidence of a weight loss in adults between 1st October and 16th October, possibly as a result of an increased demand upon the adults when the nestlings grow larger.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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References:

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Recent records new to the North Atlantic islands

by *D. A. Bannerman*

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During the progress of the four-volume work on the birds of the Canaries, Madeiran Islands, Azores and Cape Verde Islands (1963-1968) upon which my wife and I have been engaged, a certain number of species made their appearance in the islands for the first time too late for inclusion in the appropriate volume. It was our custom therefore to include details of these

new records in the succeeding volume in an Addendum. But from long experience we are fully aware that records, however important, which may be included in Addenda, and not in their proper volume, are apt to be overlooked. That applies not only to future workers in these groups, but also to the Editor of *The Zoological Record* upon which so many investigators rely. On the other hand records which appear in the *Ibis* or the *Bulletin of the B.O.C.* are seldom passed over, and that is why, at the expense of some repetition, we ask leave to bring the most important of these records to notice. Only species which are new to the respective archipelago will be mentioned, with one striking exception.

The outstanding occurrence for many years has been the re-discovery alive in January 1968 of the Azores Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula p. murina*) in an island of the archipelago from which it was previously known. We had predicted that it would be found again and although we failed to see the bird ourselves during either of our recent visits to these islands we learned enough from local residents to feel certain the bird was not exterminated.

It was first reported by a Dutch zoologist Mr. J. A. Van Vegten while on a visit to São Miguel in October 1967. He was convinced he had seen the bird in one of its old haunts, where we ourselves had searched for it daily for a week without success. Mr. Van Vegten reported his alleged discovery to Professor K. H. Voous of Amsterdam and a note was published in *Ardea* 56, 1968, p. 194, recording the event, to which Professor Voous added a postscript, thus lending his authority to the record. He was kind enough to send me a copy. This is the first occasion when the Azores Bullfinch has been seen by an overseas naturalist for 41 years.

Undisputable evidence was soon forthcoming for, unfortunately, a reward was offered by a resident in the island with scant consideration for the bird's preservation with the unhappy result that a bullfinch was caught alive but with a leg broken. It survived for one night only and was photographed after death—I have a copy of the press-photo. The specimen was taken to the Director of the Museu Carlos Machado at Ponta Delgada. The sex was not ascertained.

My friend Senhor José Maria Álvares Cabral, the director of the Museum and himself a keen protectionist has favoured me with an account of the bird's capture and how this came about. His wife Senhora Clotilde Cabral has most kindly translated into French the press accounts in Portuguese for my benefit. Senhor Álvares Cabral himself knew nothing of these happenings until the bird's body was brought to his museum, and we can rest assured that he will take every means in his power to prevent such a thing happening again. The Azores Bullfinch is a protected bird and anyone taking its eggs or capturing or shooting a specimen is liable to severe penalties.

The following are new to the avifauna of the Atlantic islands since we began our work. They are listed in sequence of their occurrence and not in scientific order. The references in brackets, following the records, refer to the volume and page of *Birds of the Atlantic Islands* where mention was first made of the occurrence in an Addendum and where details of the captures are given.

The list is as set out below:

Western Sandpiper. First reported record for Canaries of *Calidris mauri*, Tenerife 26-27 Dec. 1960 (Vol. 2, p. 192).

African Little Bittern. First record of *Ixobrychus minutus payesi* established from the Canaries, formerly incorrectly identified. (Vol. 2, p. 193).

Dotterel. First record of *Eudromias morinellus* as a migrant to the Salvage Islands (Vol. 2, p. 196).

Brown Booby. First record of *Sula leucogaster* in the Azores. Bird captured off Sao Miguel, 1966 (Vol. 3, p. 250).

American Nighthawk. First record of *Chordeiles minor* off Pico at sea. Photographed Sept. 1966 (Vol. IV, p. 451).

Lesser Snow Goose. In Oct. 1967, a Lesser Snow Goose *Chen hyperboreus* (Pallas) was shot on Terceira and is preserved at Angra do Heroismo. This confirms the appearance in the Azores of a goose tentatively assigned to this species which has been shot, but not preserved, on São Miguel and the record, of unknown exact date, was placed in square brackets (*Birds of the Atlantic Islands*, Vol. 3, p. 192). We noted at the time "we may expect the record to be repeated in course of time." (Vol. IV, p. 451).

American Sparrow-hawk. First record of *Falco sparverius* in Azores, captured Terceira, 1968 (Vol. IV, p. 451).

Red-billed Tropic Bird. Two seen off Porto Santo Sept. 1966. First occurrence of *Phaethon aethereus* in the Madeiran islands. Nearest breeding colony in the Cape Verde Islands. (Vol. IV, p. 451).

Common Gull. First record of *Larus canus* in the Azores, Flores 1967-68 (preserved); the eighth migratory gull to be recorded from the Archipelago. (Vol. IV, p. 452).

Gull-billed Tern. Reported seen off São Miguel Oct. 1967. First record for the Azores of *Gelocbelidon nilotica* (Vol. IV, p. 452).

American Redstart. Captured at sea in area of Azores. Oct. 1967. First records for the area of *Setophaga ruticilla*. Specimens preserved (Vol. IV, p. 452). If accepted this makes the 24th American species to have been recovered in the Azores Archipelago.

We look upon the sight-record of a party of European Wrens *Troglodytes troglodytes*, reported from São Miguel, as being open to doubtful identification. The occurrence, reported in *Ardea* 56, 1968, p. 194, is too unusual to accept without a specimen in support (Vol. IV, p. 452).

Bean Goose. *Anser arvensis* Brehm. The capture on the sea off Terceira of a Forest Bean Goose at the beginning of October 1968, is an event of some interest and is the first record of the species for the Azores. The bird is alive in the possession of Sr. José Albino Fernandes and the occurrence was brought to my notice by Colonel José Agostinho to whom the bird was brought for identification.

At my request he has confirmed that the bird has a round (not oblong shaped) nail at the extremity of the mandible, thus proving it to be a Forest Bean Goose and not a Tundra Bean Goose (*rossicus*). Colonel Agostinho informs me that the bird appears to be quite happy feeding with Senhor Fernandes' poultry and that arrangements have been made in the event of its death, for its preservation in the local museum. The species has once been recorded from Madeira.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*. A specimen shot on Terceira 28th November, 1968. The bird was brought to Colonel Agostinho and identified by him.